



Culture and Warfare

A Marine Perspective

Why does it Matter?

- ◆ Center of Gravity
- ◆ Urban Warfare
- ◆ Hearts and Minds

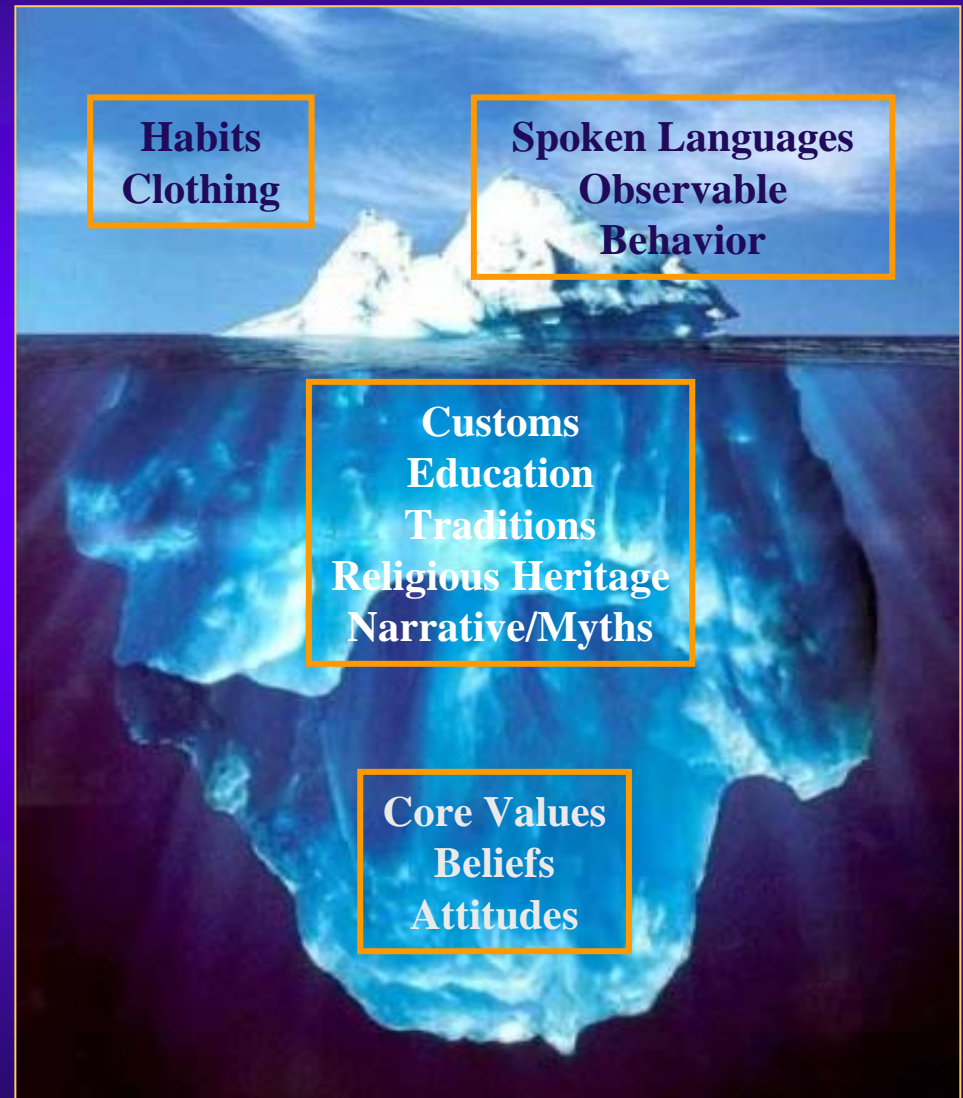


The Cultural Iceberg

Explicit façade presented to outside world; most obvious but least stable; easily manipulated;

Conscious, explainable; normally hidden from outsiders; can be special culture of a group or society

Unconscious, instinctive, rules known & followed by all; taken for granted; almost impossible for average person to state as a system



Source: George McFadden, from Edward T. Hall, "The Hidden Dimension" & "The Dance of Life: The Other Dimension of Time"

Cultural Factors

Ethnic Description

- Physical Appearance
- Cultural history
- Population

Centers of Authority

- Description
- History
- Rule of Law
- Role of State vs Role of Ethnic Group

Cultural Attitudes of

- Self
- Group/Tribe/Clan
- Modern Nation State
- Conflict resolution
- United States
- Other ethnic groups
- Neighboring states
- Regional powers

•Social Centers

- Elites vs middle class
- Urban vs. Rural

Language

- History
- Dialects
- Influence on culture
- Geographic differences

Religion

- Influence on culture
- Major tenets
- Role in society
- Political Influence
- Geographic differences
- International connections
- Worship buildings/important sites

Customs

- Greeting
- Gestures/hand signs
- Visiting
- Negotiations
- Displays of affection
- Business
- Gifts
- Cultural do's and don't

Lifestyle

- Role of Family
- Role of Women/Men
- Dating /marriage
- Role of children
- Role of elders

Clothing

- Headwear
- Clothing/Footwear

Diet

- Type
- Influence on culture
- Alcohol/Drugs
- Eating style

Economy

- Distribution of resources
- Employment means
- Control of resources

Cultural geography

- Monuments
- Historical buildings

Cultural Intelligence

- ◆ **Incorporation of Intelligence Factors into analysis to support commanders' decision making**
- ◆ **Developing “cultural terrain” that will influence the MAGTF and its operations**
- ◆ **Not a separate intel discipline, but a fused element of all-source analysis**



Conclusion

- ◆ The importance of cultural intelligence cannot be over emphasized, especially in Small Wars
- ◆ Difference between success and failure

